

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 12 as follows and cancel claim 7:

1. (currently amended) A device for separating and discharging plasma comprising:
a separation element comprising a separation fleece as a first zone and a transport fleece as a second zone, wherein
the separation element is configured such that the first zone is accessible for blood application by a user, and
when blood is applied to the first zone, plasma is passed into the second zone, and ~~[[corpuscular]]~~ the remaining blood components are substantially completely retained in the first zone; and
a discharge unit configured to act, after plasma separation, substantially on the second zone without the discharge unit having an effect on the first zone so that the separated plasma is released from the second zone and is discharged through an outlet of the device.
2. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the separation element is a single-use article.
3. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the first zone is positioned within the device laterally next to the second zone such that the discharge unit acts on the second zone of the separation element substantially perpendicular to the plane in which the separation element is located.
4. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second zone is positioned in a movable holder within the device.

5. (previously presented) The device of claim 4, wherein the holder is configured to rotate about 90° resulting in a detachment of the second zone from the first zone.
6. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second zone is configured to detach from the first zone and the detachment and release of plasma from the second zone occur in two consecutive steps by actuating a trigger unit on the device,
7. (cancelled)
8. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second zone is pressed out by a plunger.
9. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the separation element is strip-shaped.
10. (currently amended) A system for detecting analytes in blood comprising:
a separation element ~~configured such that~~ comprising a separation fleece as a first zone and a transport fleece as a second zone, wherein
 [[of]] the separation element is configured such that the first zone is
 accessible for blood application by a user, [[wherein]] and
 when blood is applied to the first zone, plasma is passed into the second zone, and the remaining blood components are substantially completely retained in the first zone;
a discharge unit configured to act, after plasma separation, substantially on the second zone without the discharge unit having an effect on the first zone so that the separated plasma is released from the second zone and is discharged through an outlet of the device; and

a test element that enables detection of an analyte in plasma when the separated plasma is applied.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the structure of the test element is simplified such that there is no plasma separation by the test element itself.

12. (currently amended) A method for plasma separation and discharge comprising:
providing a separation element comprising a separation fleece as a first zone and a transport fleece as a second zone.

applying blood to ~~[[a]] the~~ first zone of ~~[[a]] the~~ separation element,
separating plasma from other blood components by means of the separation element, the blood components being substantially retained in the first zone and the plasma being passed into ~~[[a]] the~~ second zone of the separation element,
processing the second zone without affecting the first zone such that plasma is released from the second zone, and
discharging the released plasma through an outlet.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising detaching the second zone from the first zone.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising eluting the separated plasma from the second zone.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising releasing the separated plasma from the second zone by means of pressure.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising separating the plasma by filtering.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the filtering is assisted by negative pressure.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising detecting at least one analyte in the blood.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the applied blood volume is between about 30 μ l and about 150 μ l.

20-21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one analyte is high density lipoproteins.